

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1                    1. A stretcher carrier comprising:  
2                    a stretcher platform for supporting a stretcher in a substantially horizontal  
3                    position;  
4                    a wheel support connected to the stretcher platform;  
5                    at least one wheel rotatably mounted to the wheel support;  
6                    a foot prop support pivotally attached to the wheel leg and attached to the  
7                    stretcher platform;  
8                    a foot prop pivotally attached to the foot prop support, wherein the foot prop is  
9                    pivotable between a downward, extended position for supporting the stretcher carrier on a  
10                    ground surface, and an upward position in which the foot prop is pivoted upward and  
11                    away from the ground surface for transporting the stretcher on the stretcher carrier.

1                    2. The stretcher carrier of claim 1, further comprising a foot prop release  
2                    pedal arranged to release the foot prop from the downward, extended position to the  
3                    upward position, upon being pushed.

1                    3. The stretcher carrier of claim 2, further comprising:  
2                    a locking plate arranged to engage retaining edges of the foot prop to maintain the  
3                    foot prop in the downward, extended position;

4 at least one spring attached to the wheel support and the foot prop, wherein the at  
5 least one spring applies tension force to the foot prop, and wherein the foot prop release  
6 pedal is arranged to disengage the locking plate from the retaining edges upon being  
7 pushed such that the at least one spring pivots the foot prop to the upward position.

1 4. The stretcher carrier of claim 3, wherein the foot prop is pivotable to a folded,  
2 closed scissor position against the foot prop support for converting the stretcher carrier to  
3 a storage configuration, and wherein the at least one spring is attached to the foot prop by  
4 a safety braking mechanism that relieves tension in the at least one spring when the foot  
5 prop is in the folded, closed scissor position.

1 5. The stretcher carrier of claim 4, wherein the safety braking mechanism  
2 comprises:

3 a retaining pin on the foot prop support;

4 a connecting pin on the foot prop; and

5 a steel cord connected to the at least one spring and the connecting pin, and  
6 extending over the retaining pin.

1 6. The stretcher carrier of claim 1, wherein the foot prop is arranged to be moved  
2 from the upward position to the extended, downward position upon being quickly rotated  
3 from the upward position past the extended, downward position and released after  
4 passing the extended, downward position.

1           7. The stretcher carrier of claim 6, further comprising:  
2           a locking plate arranged to engage retaining edges of the foot prop to maintain the  
3 foot prop in the downward, extended position;  
4           at least one spring attached to the wheel support and the foot prop, wherein the at  
5 least one spring applies tension force to the foot prop to urge the foot prop against the  
6 locking plate when the foot prop is quickly rotated from the upward position past the  
7 extended, downward position and released after passing the extended, downward  
8 position.

1           8. The stretcher carrier of claim 1, wherein the foot prop support is  
2 releasably attached to the stretcher platform by fasteners, wherein each of said fasteners  
3 includes a threaded knob and a mating threaded bolt, and wherein each of said fasteners  
4 is arranged to secure the foot prop support to the stretcher platform with one to two 360  
5 degree twists of the threaded knob on the threaded bolt.

1           9. The stretcher carrier of claim 1, further comprising stretcher clamps, each  
2 of said stretcher clamps comprising a threaded knob and a threaded, hooked arm for  
3 engaging a stretcher arm, wherein each of said stretcher clamps is arranged to secure the  
4 stretcher arm by turning of the threaded knob onto the threaded, hooked arm.

1           10. The stretcher carrier of claim 1, wherein the stretcher carrier is arranged to  
2 be converted to a collapsed storage configuration in which the wheel support and the foot  
3 prop support are substantially parallel to the stretcher platform the foot prop is folded in a  
4 closed scissor position against the foot prop support.

1            11.     A stretcher carrier comprising:  
2            a stretcher platform for supporting a stretcher in a substantially horizontal  
3 position;  
4            a wheel support connected to the stretcher platform;  
5            at least one wheel rotatably mounted to the wheel support;  
6            a foot prop support pivotally attached to the wheel leg and attached to the  
7 stretcher platform;  
8            a foot prop pivotally attached to the foot prop support and arranged to support the  
9 stretcher carrier on a ground surface, wherein the foot prop is pivotable to a folded,  
10 closed scissor position against the foot prop support for converting the stretcher carrier to  
11 a storage configuration.

1            12.     The stretcher carrier of claim 11, further comprising:  
2            at least one spring that applies a tension force to urge the foot prop to a position  
3 for supporting the stretcher carrier on the ground surface; and  
4            a safety braking system that relieves tension in the at least one spring when the  
5 foot prop is in the folded, closed scissor position against the foot prop support.

1            13.     The stretcher carrier of claim 12, wherein the safety braking mechanism  
2 comprises:  
3            a retaining pin on the foot prop support;  
4            a connecting pin on the foot prop; and

5 a steel cord connected to the at least one spring and the connecting pin, and  
6 extending over the retaining pin.

1 14. A stretcher carrier comprising:

2 a frame arranged to support a stretcher;

3 an axle received in axle holes in the frame;

4 wheels rotatably mounted on the axle; and

5 at least one roll pin extending through the axle and arranged to prevent  
6 one of said wheels from rubbing against the frame.

1 15. The stretcher carrier of claim 14, further comprising a pair of retaining  
2 pins disposed at opposite ends of the axle, wherein said retaining pins are arranged to  
3 retain the wheels on the axle when inserted in retaining pin holes in the axle, wherein said  
4 retaining pins are attached to lanyards, wherein the lanyards are attached to a bungee cord  
5 within the axle, and wherein the at least one roll pin passes through a loop opening in one  
6 of said lanyards so as to prevent the retaining pins from being pulled too far out of the  
7 axle.

1 16. The stretcher carrier of claim 15, wherein the retaining pins are sized to fit  
2 partially inside the ends of the axle, and wherein the retaining pins are held near the ends  
3 of the axle under tension of the bungee cord when removed from the retaining pin holes  
4 and partially inserted in the ends of the axle.

1           17.     The stretcher carrier of claim 14, further comprising an annular stop  
2 disposed on said axle and arranged to prevent another of said wheels from rubbing  
3 against the frame, wherein said annular stop includes an indicator arranged to indicate the  
4 position of the at least one roll pin.

1           18.     The stretcher carrier of claim 14, further comprising a fastening pin  
2 received in fastening pin holes in the axle and the frame, wherein said fastening pin  
3 prevents rotation and sliding of the axle when inserted in the fastening pin holes.

1           19.     The stretcher carrier of claim 18, wherein the fastening pin is attached to  
2 the frame by a lanyard.

1           20.     The stretcher carrier of claim 14, wherein the axle holes have roll pin slots  
2 that allow the axle and the at least one roll pin to pass through the axle hole when the at  
3 least one roll pin is aligned with the roll pin slots.

1           21.     A stretcher carrier comprising:  
2                   a frame arranged to support a stretcher;  
3                   an axle received in axle holes in the frame;  
4                   wheels rotatably mounted on the axle; and  
5                   a pair of retaining pins disposed at opposite ends of the axle, wherein said  
6 retaining pins are arranged to retain the wheels on the axle when inserted in retaining pin  
7 holes in the axle, wherein said retaining pins are attached to lanyards, and wherein the  
8 lanyards are attached to a bungee cord within the axle.

1           22.     The stretcher carrier of claim 21, wherein the retaining pins are sized to  
2     fit partially inside the ends of the axle, and wherein the retaining pins are held near the  
3     ends of the axle under tension of the bungee cord when removed from the retaining pin  
4     holes in the axle and partially inserted in the ends of the axle.

1           23.     The stretcher carrier of claim 21, further comprising a fastening pin  
2     received in fastening pin holes in the axle and the frame, wherein said fastening pin  
3     prevents rotation and sliding of the axle when inserted in the fastening pin holes.

1           24.     The stretcher carrier of claim 25, wherein the fastening pin is attached to  
2     the frame by a lanyard.